
Annual
**WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**

Reporting Year 2013



Presented By
**Atascadero Mutual
Water Company**

PWS ID#: 4010002

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

There When You Need Us

We are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2013. AMWC is dedicated to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards, and we always strive to adopt new methods for delivering the highest possible quality of drinking water to you. We are vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Where Does My Water Come From?

AMWC's water source is the groundwater found in the Atascadero basin, and the underflow of the Salinas River and Nacimiento Lake. The water resides in the pore spaces of the sand and gravel that make up these geologic formations and is naturally filtered, clean, and clear. AMWC pumps the groundwater from 17 active wells into various portions of its distribution system. AMWC currently has one well on standby status; it is located in the Summit Hills subdivision.

The watershed that replenishes the groundwater encompasses a 247-square-mile area along the Salinas River, extending to its headwaters. Of that area, only a small percentage (about 550 acres) is owned by AMWC. The majority of the watershed comprises open space and residential/commercial development.

Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; **Pesticides and Herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and that can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems; **Radioactive Contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

QUESTIONS?

Should you ever have questions regarding this report or the quality of your drinking water, please call Mike Stephens, AMWC's Chief Operator, at (805) 466-2428.

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program

Drinking Water Source Assessment Plans (DWSAPs) are available at our office. These plans assess the possible sources of contaminants that could potentially reach our source of supply. They include an inventory of potential sources of contamination within delineated areas and determinations of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the DWSAPs, our water system has a physical barrier effectiveness rating of low to moderate, with the low ratings being associated with wells pumping from the Salinas River underflow. If you would like to review the DWSAPs, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours.



Water Conservation

Did you know that 5 percent of AMWC's customers use over 25 percent of the water produced? You can play a role in conserving water (and save yourself money in the process!) by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

AMWC Wants to Share What We Do

Need a guest speaker? If your group would like to learn more about AMWC water resources, topics include:

- The 100-year history of AMWC
- Water production, treatment facilities, and the Nacimiento recharge basin
- Water conservation
- Appropriate plants for Atascadero gardens

Tours

AMWC can schedule tours of its facilities for interested shareholders. These tours last approximately 2 hours. On the tour, you will visit wells, treatment facilities, the Nacimiento Water Project recharge basin, and AMWC's corporate yard, booster stations, and tanks. To arrange a tour, call John Neil at 464-5351.

Activities for Kids

- The Story of Our Water, a 45-minute presentation for 3rd and 5th grade classes, is open to all schools in Atascadero
- Water Cycle or Conservation bracelet activity for children's organizations, troops, and daycare facilities

Call 464-5347 or email jhendrickson@amwc.us to schedule your presentation or talk.

UCMR3 Sampling

As one of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996, the United States Environmental Agency (U.S. EPA) is mandated to have public water systems monitor for no more than 30 unregulated contaminants every five years and to store the analytical results in a National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD). The EPA created the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program (UCM) to accomplish that. The purpose of this is to develop new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for some of those substances and possibly add them to the list of regulated contaminants that water systems routinely sample. The current regulation is the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3). AMWC completed the UCMR3 sampling in 2013. The results of the contaminants that were found to be above the detection levels are listed in the Unregulated Substances table and marked with an asterisk. A complete list of the UCMR3 substances sampled by AMWC and more information on the regulation is available at our office or by calling (805) 466-2428.

Copper Exceedance

AMWC's wells consistently produce water with lead and copper levels well below acceptable levels established by the EPA. However, water tested at the faucets in the homes of some customers revealed elevated levels of copper. Brass and copper plumbing fixtures in the customers' homes are the source of the copper in the tap water. Ten of the 62 in-home copper samples collected on 6/13/2013 exceeded the action level of 1.3 ppm. In no case did the lead found in the water at the customers' faucets exceed the action level established by the EPA. If you are concerned about elevated copper levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctors.

Community Participation

AMWC holds monthly board meetings, typically on the second Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held at the AMWC business office at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero, at 5:30 p.m. Please call (805) 466-2428 or check our Web site (www.amwc.us) to confirm the date. Agendas are available at the meetings and on our Web site. Public comment is welcome.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water.

The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2013	10	0.004	0.24	ND–2.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2013	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	0.80	0.67–0.93	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium (ppb)	2013	50	(100)	0.25	ND–0.31	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2013	2.0	1	0.23	0.16–0.31	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2013	15	(0)	10.5	4.6–20	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids–Stage 2 (ppb)	2013	60	NA	16.2	1.9–20.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2013	45	45	5.1	ND–18	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	2013	10	10	1.54	ND–2.9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2013	50	30	0.08	ND–9.2	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Total Xylenes (ppb)	2013	1,750	1,800	2.3	2.2–2.4	No	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; fuel solvent
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2013	80	NA	47.4	22.3–61.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	2013	20	0.43	5.18	2.1–8.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	0.3	1.6	10/62	Yes	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0.2	0	1/62	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2013	500	NS	99.7	22–190	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2013	1,600	NS	867.3	530–1,300	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2013	500	NS	108	65–170	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2013	1,000	NS	619.5	310–830	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2013	5.0	NA	0.11	0.10–0.11	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2013	5.0	NS	0.0065	ND–0.071	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,4-Dioxane* (ppb)	2013	0.09	ND–0.114	Industrial discharges
Alkalinity [Total, as CaCO₃] (ppm)	2013	243.6	150–310	Naturally occurring
Bicarbonate [HCO₃] (ppm)	2013	299.1	190–380	Naturally occurring
Boron (ppm)	2013	31.8	ND–200	Naturally occurring
Calcium (ppm)	2013	82.7	47–120	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorate* (ppb)	2013	191	64–410	Disinfection by-product
Chrom VI* (ppb)	2013	0.16	0.1–0.32	Naturally occurring; industrial discharges
Hardness (grains/gal)	2013	20.4	12.9–29.8	The sum of the polyvalent cations present in the water, generally, magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.
Magnesium (ppm)	2013	36.5	25–52	Erosion of natural deposits
Molybdenum* (ppb)	2013	4.53	2.8–6.5	Substances that form ions when in water
Orthophosphate (ppm)	2013	1.12	0.8–1.6	Added as a corrosion inhibitor
Perfluorooctanoic Acid* (ppb)	2013	0.028	ND–0.028	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in the environment
Potassium (ppm)	2013	1.75	1.3–2.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2013	45.9	28–97	Refers to the salt present in the water; generally naturally occurring
Strontium* (ppb)	2013	353	280–510	Naturally occurring in the environment
Vanadium* (ppm)	2013	3.94	ND–6.4	Naturally occurring

*UCMR3 Sampling Results

Definitions

AL (Regulatory Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

grains/gal (grains per gallon): Grains of compound per gallon of water.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).